

UNCLASSIFIED

BUENOS AIRES 1957

VZCZCFUI *

RR RUEHC RUEHCV RUEHLD RUEHMN RUFFRO

DE RUEHBU #1957 087 **

ZNR UUUUU 22H

R 281915Z MAR 83

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6803

INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 4971

RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1616

RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 6760

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 2529

BT

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 01957

ROME ALSO FOR THE VATICAN

P.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PREL, ECPS, AR, VE

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE EDITOR SEEKS ASYLUM IN VENEZUELA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1932 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO WEEKEND PRESS REPORTS, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR JORGE DAGER CONFIRMED THAT "LA SEMANA" EDITOR JORGE FONTEVECCHIA ELUDED POLICE AND WAS GIVEN ASYLUM IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY ON MARCH 25. DAGER ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT ONCE POLITICAL ASYLUM IS RATIFIED BY THE GOV, VENEZUELA WILL ASK ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TO GIVE FONTEVECCHIA SAFE CONDUCT TO LEAVE ARGENTINA. THIS WILL TAKE A FEW DAYS, AND IN THE MEANTIME FONTEVECCHIA WILL STAY IN THE EMBASSY, DAGER ADDED.

2. PRESS REPORTS FROM CARACAS IN THE MARCH 28 BUENOS AIRES PRESS QUOTED VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE ALBERTO ZAMBRANO VELASCO AS CONFIRMING FONTEVECCHIA IS IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AND THAT HIS CASE "IS BEING STUDIED". THE REPORT ALSO QUOTED OFFICIAL CIRCLES AS SAYING THE JOURNALIST WOULD OBTAIN SAFE CONDUCT "VERY SOON".

3. MEANWHILE, FONTEVECCHIA'S FATHER FILED A PREVENTIVE HABEAS CORPUS WRIT ON BEHALF OF HIS SON ON MARCH 25 TO TRY TO VOID THE GOA'S DECREE ORDERING THE ARREST OF HIS SON. THIS IS REPORTEDLY THE FIRST TIME THAT A PREVENTIVE HABEAS CORPUS WRIT HAS BEEN FILED TO NULLIFY AN EXECUTIVE FRANCH DECREE. PRESIDENT FIGUEROA WAS QUOTED IN MARCH 26 PAPERS AS JUSTIFYING THE DECISION TO ARREST FONTEVECCHIA UNDER STATE-OF-SIEGE POWERS BY SAYING THAT "LA SEMANA" HAD INSISTED ON PUBLISHING "PROVOCATIONS" IN SPITE OF "ALL THE WARNINGS" THAT HAD BEEN ISSUED TO THE PRESS. SHLAUDMAN

BT

#1957

NANN

UNCLASSIFIED

BUENOS AIRES 1957

8F123

178/293

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

CHRG: PROG 3/28/83

APPRV: AMP:HWSHLAUDEMAN

DRFTD: POL:JAALLITTO:PK

CLEAR: 1.POL:JFKING; 2.DCM

JAFUSENFLL

DISTR: POL-3 AMB DCM

ECON USIS SCI

DAO MILGP CHRON

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S000000040)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RP/RS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(V) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason